

FIRE MOBILIZATION NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center
Camp Murray, Washington

For immediate release

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Update: Five Additional Fire Task Forces Approved for Fischer Fire in Chelan County

CAMP MURRAY - The Washington State Patrol (WSP) at 6:50 p.m. today approved a request to send five additional fire engine task forces to the Fischer Fire, which is burning about 1.5 miles east of Peshastin in Chelan County. The 2,100-acre fire, which began Aug. 8, was reported today to have spread significantly, prompting Level 3 evacuations for the Eagle, and Bjork canyons to the north and Olalla Canyon to the east.

The five task forces are scheduled to arrive at the Fischer Fire about 6 a.m. Aug. 15. The task force engines are from Clark, Thurston, Mason, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish and Skagit counties.

WSP Chief Lowell Porter approved the Washington State Fire Mobilization Act aid for the fire Aug. 11. The WSP's Fire Protection Bureau subsequently dispatched three interface task forces to provide structure protection at the Fischer Fire.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Aug. 11 approved a state request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant for the Fischer Fire. The grant will reimburse the state 75 percent of the costs associated with the fire. Federal fire management assistance is made available by FEMA to manage, mitigate, and control fires that threaten to cause a major disaster. The assistance covers eligible state firefighting costs, including expenses for field camps, equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials, and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities.

Meanwhile, the State Fire Mobilization Act resources were demobilized at 6 p.m. today from the 4,000-acre Mud Lake Fire, which had burned grass, brush and scattered timber about seven miles northwest of Naches in Yakima County. The fire had threatened about 45 structures and the State Fire Mobilization Act was declared for the fire on Aug. 11. WSP had dispatched four wildland task forces to the fire. A federal Fire Management Assistance declaration was approved Aug. 12 for the Mud Lake Fire.

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Creating a defensible space around your home is a must for residents living in a potential wild land fire area. The following are the 10 steps to defensible space:

- Thin tree and brush cover
- Dispose of slash and debris left from thinning.
- Remove dead limbs, leaves and other litter.
- Stack firewood away from home.
- Maintain irrigated green belt around the home.
- Mow dry grasses and weeds.
- Prune branches to 10 feet above the ground.
- Trim branches.
- Clean roof and gutters.
- Reduce density of surrounding forest.

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